

August 11, 2014

CALIFORNIA PISTACHIO RESEARCH PROGRAM ASSESSMENT RATE FOR THE 2014-2015 MARKETING SEASON SET AT \$0.0035 PER POUND OF ASSESSABLE WEIGHT

TO THE PISTACHIO HANDLER ADDRESSED:

As recommended by the California Pistachio Research Board (board), the California Department of Food and Agriculture has established an assessment rate for the 2014-2015 marketing season (August 1, 2014–July 31, 2015) on all California pistachio growers. This assessment is to be remitted on behalf of the growers by pistachio processors.

The assessment rate for the 2014-2015 marketing season has been set at \$0.0035 per pound of assessable weight. *This is the same rate that was in effect last year*. One-quarter cent (\$0.0025) of this rate will be utilized to fund the program's regular budget while the other one-tenth of a cent (\$0.0010) will be directed toward funding endowed university research positions.

The board office will provide the assessment form and instructions to all California pistachio processors in the month of August. Assessment checks are payable to the board and shall be postmarked by December 15, 2014. Assessments postmarked after the December 15th deadline will be considered delinquent and will be assessed a late payment penalty as provided in the California Marketing Act, Section 58930 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

Growers who produce or market less than 1,000 pounds of assessable weight during the 2014-2015 marketing season and who pay assessments may apply for a refund of those assessments after July 31, 2015.

A copy of the Order of the Department establishing the 2014-2015 assessment rate is available from the Department's Marketing Branch. For questions about the assessment order, please contact Amy Uber of the Marketing Branch at (916) 900-5018. For questions regarding the California Pistachio Research Program, please call Bob Klein, the program's manager, at (559) 255-6480.

Sincerely,

Robert Maxie, Chief Marketing Branch

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